



Motorcycle Safety

Summer is here! With that comes the chance for those who enjoy riding motorcycles to hit the roads. While I do not personally ride motorcycles on a frequent basis, I have had the opportunity to try it in the past. That experience and working in patrol opened my eyes to how dangerous it can be for those who enjoy riding. We know there are several things that motorcycle riders can do to help protect themselves but the rest of us have to be extra aware this time of year as well.

I would like to share a couple of tips from my experience riding a motorcycle and patrolling Dodge County roads over the last 12 years.

For drivers of automobiles:

- Take an extra second at stop signs to look twice. I can think of more than a few occasions when on patrol I was surprised to see a motorcycle appear when I missed it on the first look.
- Double check before changing lanes. Do not just look in your mirror, look out of your windows too. It is very easy for a motorcycle to be in a mirror blind spot.
- Be careful when you decide to pass other vehicles. Oncoming motorcycles can be hard to see until it is too late.
- Be mindful of leaving refuse in the roadways. Things like grass clippings, litter, dirt or other refuse can make the road slippery for motorcycles.

For Motorcycle Riders:

- Please wear a helmet. Our deputies have seen far too many tragedies that could have been prevented with the use of a helmet. We do not want to see anymore.
 - WI Statute 347.485 (1) states;
 - a) No person who holds an instructional permit under s. 343.07 (4) or who is under 18 years of age may operate or ride upon a Type 1 motorcycle on any highway unless the person is wearing protective headgear of a type which meets the standards established for motorcycle operation in (am) No person may operate a Type 1 motorcycle when carrying a passenger under 18 years of age unless the passenger is wearing protective headgear.
- Make sure your headlights are working and on during daylight as well as night. You want to be as visible as possible. With all the distractions out there for drivers, a headlight may save your life.
 - WI Statute 346.595 states;
 - (5) The headlamps on motorcycles shall be lighted whenever the motorcycle is in operation. Motorcycles may be operated to the nearest repair facility for headlamp repair in the event of mechanical or electrical headlamp failure except during hours of darkness. Mopeds shall observe the requirements for lighted headlamps and tail lamps under s. 347.06.
- Slow down - Please do the speed limit. I see deer everywhere while on patrol. Doing the speed limit goes a long way when it comes to your chances of avoiding one that jumps into the road. I've had several close calls in my squad and driving the speed limit has helped me avoid a crash on at least two occasions.

There are numerous statutes that apply to operating safely on the roads whether it is in a car or on a motorcycle. The point here is to give everyone a reminder that we want to have a safe and enjoyable summer regardless of your hobbies or mode of transportation. **For all the parents out there, please share this information with your young riders, or drivers.**

Thank you and stay safe out there,



Dale J Schmidt Sheriff **Scott Mittelstadt** Chief Deputy

Captain Chad Enright